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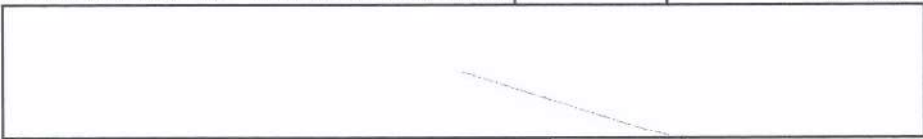
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SERIAL: (U) (b)(3):10 USC 424

BODY

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COUNTRY: (U) SOUTH AFRICA (SF); BAHRAIN (BA); UNITED ARAB EMIRATES (TC).

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SUBJ: [REDACTED] SOUTH AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC DIFFICULTIES IN THE PERSIAN GULF REGION (U)

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

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DOI: (U) 950403.

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REQS: (U) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

SUMMARY: ~~(S/NF/WN)~~ SOUTH AFRICAN DIPLOMATS IN THE GULF HAVE BEEN EMBARRASSED BY PRESIDENT MANDELA'S ORDER FOR VICE PRESIDENT DE KLERK TO CANCEL HIS VISIT TO THE AREA. ADDITIONALLY, A SOUTH AFRICAN SHIP SCHEDULED TO CONDUCT PORT CALLS IN THE GULF HAD

BROKEN DOWN IN ABU DHABI.

(b)(1),1.4 (c)

TEXT: 1. ~~(S/NF/WN)~~ [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] AS OF EARLY APRIL 1995, SOUTH AFRICAN PRESIDENT NELSON ((MANDELA)) HAD DIRECTED VICE PRESIDENT FREDERIK ((DE KLERK)) TO CANCEL HIS SCHEDULED APRIL VISIT TO BAHRAIN. D E KLERK HAD EARLIER ACCEPTED AN OFFER TO BE THE GUEST SPEAKER AT AN ECONOMIC CONFERENCE

TO BE HELD IN BAHRAIN, AND HAD PLANNED TO VISIT FROM 10 TO 12 APRIL 1995. AS A RESULT OF THE MANDELA DIRECTIVE, THE SOUTH AFRICAN DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (DFA) DIRECTED THE SOUTH AFRICAN MISSION IN BAHRAIN TO INFORM THE GOVERNMENT OF BAHRAIN AND THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE OF THE TRIP CANCELLATION, CAUSING CONSIDERABLE

EMBARRASSMENT FOR THE DIPLOMATS IN MANAMA, WHO HAD SPENT CONSIDERABLE TIME AND EFFORT TO ARRANGE APPOINTMENTS WITH SENIOR

BAHRAINI OFFICIALS. THE SOUTH AFRICAN MISSION WAS FURTHER EMBARRASSED WHEN THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE INFORMED THEM THAT

PROGRAMS FOR THE ECONOMIC CONFERENCE, REFLECTING DE KLERK'S SCHEDULED PRESENTATION, HAD ALREADY BEEN PRINTED AND DISTRIBUTED TO

(b)(1),1.4 (c)

ATTENDEES. AS A FACE-SAVING MEASURE, THE DFA ANNOUNCED THAT IT WOULD SEND A REPLACEMENT FOR DE KLERK.

2. ~~(S/NF/WN)~~ [REDACTED] DFA OFFICIALS POSTED ABROAD HAVE BEEN PLAGUED WITH SIMILAR LAST MINUTE T RIP CANCELLATIONS BY SENIOR SOUTH AFRICAN OFFICIALS WHO HAVE SCHEDULED

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VISITS TO COUNTRIES THAT HAVE RECENTLY OPENED DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH SOUTH AFRICA. [REDACTED]

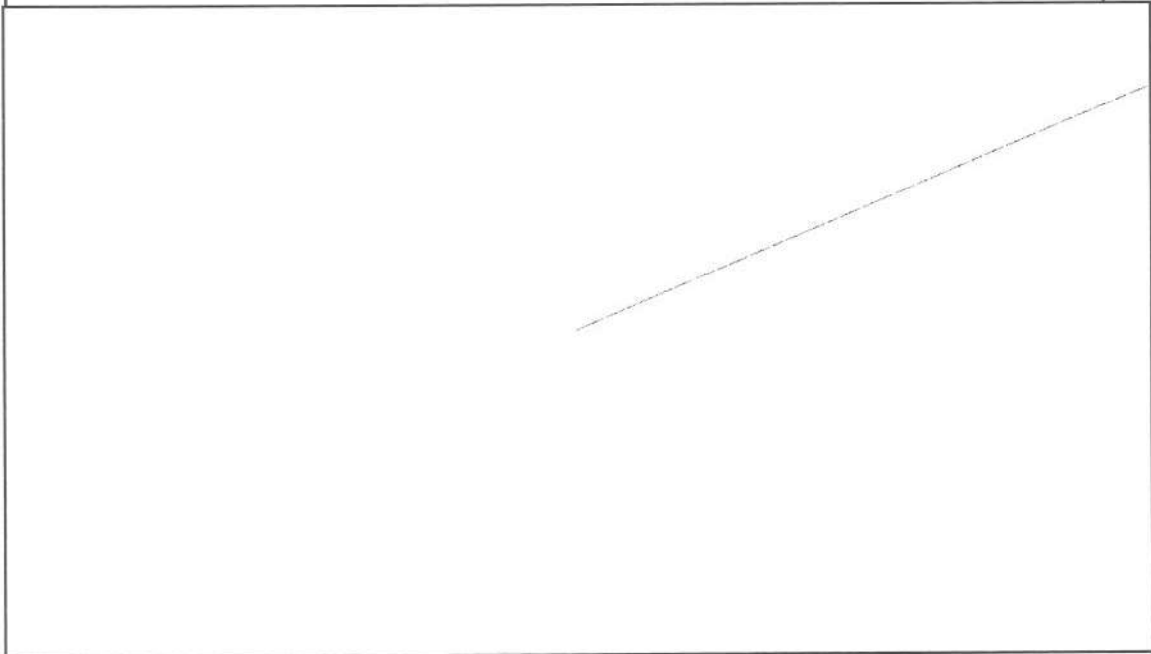
[REDACTED]



3. ~~(S/NF/WN)~~ COMPOUNDING PROBLEMS AND EMBARRASSMENT FOR DFA OFFICIALS IN THE GULF REGION, SAS DRAKENSBERG, WHICH CARRIED SOUTH AFRICAN ARMS DISPLAYS TO THE INTERNATIONAL ARMS EXHIBITION IDEX-95 IN ABU DHABI, DEVELOPED A PROBLEM WITH ITS ENGINE SEVERE ENOUGH TO PREVENT THE SHIP FROM LEAVING PORT IN ABU DHABI AND COMPLETING A SERIES OF SCHEDULED CALLS AT GULF PORTS. DRAKENSBERG WAS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR A RECEPTION ABOARD DURING HER PORT VISIT TO BAHRAIN ON 5 APRIL 1995. AGAIN, SOUTH AFRICAN DIPLOMATS WERE EMBARRASSED TO INFORM INVITEES OF THE RECEPTION CANCELLATION. AS OF EARLY APRIL, THE DIPLOMATS WERE STILL ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN THE REQUIRED PARTS TO REPAIR DRAKENSBERG AND MOVE THEM TO ABU DHABI.

4. ~~(S/NF/WN)~~ THE SCHEDULED VISITS TO GULF PORTS BY DRAKENSBERG HIGHLIGHT A MANPOWER SHORTAGE IN THE DFA AND ITS EMBASSIES. UNLIKE OTHER NATIONS, SOUTH AFRICA HAS FEW EMBASSIES WITH RESIDENT MILITARY ATTACHES TO MAKE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS FOR SHIP VISITS.

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